

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, September 13. 1709.

I Have now examin'd the Progress of the *Swedish Armies in Germany and Poland*: I have, I think, effectually shew'd; that the Measures taken by that Prince have all along shew'd, that the Protestant Interest was not the main End of his Proceedings: That at least a manifest Neglect of the said Interest appear'd in several of his Actions, and that even in what he attempted for the Protestant Cause, in one Particular he risk'd in another, exposing the whole Interest more than could consist with that Principle of Care and Concern for its Safety, which we have too forwardly ascrib'd to him.

This I have noted for the Admonition of those whose Idol this Prince has of late

been, and who to advance his Glory have been for giving up all *Europe* to his Management, as if GOD had inspir'd him to Restore the Kingdom of Christ Jesus in the World, and that the peculiar Interest and Advancement of His Church had lain next his Heart — Alas, *now Things appear with another Face!* and we find that instead of this, he has been prompted by an unbounded Ambition, a Spirit of Revenge and Impolitick Fury; He has been to Terms of Accommodation, however to his Advantage, *averse* — Deaf to Offers of Peace in *Matters Personal*, inexorable, implacable and terrible, of which the Execution of General *Parkull*, and the Abandoning the Protection of his own People, are dreadful Instances —

Instances — And at last when the Peace of Europe was in a manner laid in his reach, when he could have secured for ever the Protestant Religion and the Liberties of Christendom, when the Ballance of Power, so long fought for, was put into his Hand, he cast off all the due Concern for it; He slighted the Entreaties of the Confederates, and their Application to him for his Assistance, and turning his Back upon them all, left them to fight on, and embroe their Hands in one anothers Blood; and all this to pursue a Chimerical Conquest, attempted without rational Prospects, and in which he was accompanied neither with his General's Advice or GOD's Blessing.

And now we see where it is ended; the gallantest Army on that side the World is trod under-foot by Crowds; that rude undisciplin'd Muscovite triumphs over Swedish Veterans; the King flies from the Enemy he went so far to seek; He is broken by the People he contemn'd, and he is forced, wounded, and forsaken, to seek his Safety among the Turks and Tartars.

But now, having with too much Truth foretold all these Mischiefs to him, which I am far from triumphing over him in, give me leave a little to look forward, and enquire, what it is propable may be the Fate of Sweden in the Consequence of this Victory, and what the rest of the Powers of Europe ought to do — And in this perhaps I may differ from the common Opinion as much as I did before; and tho' I shou'd, yet I must take the liberty to tell you my Opinion; let him that is of another Mind, answer it if he can.

I shall divide my Thoughts of this Affair into Two Parts; One respecting the Person of the King of Sweden, and the Other respecting his Dominions; I mean the Country of Sweden it self, and its Dependencies.

As to the King of Sweden himself, I adore the infinite Wisdom of Providence in his most righteous Government in the World, who defeats the ambitious Designs of Men, cuts them short in their unbounded Desires, humbles their Greatness, and laughs at their proud projected Schemes of Dominion,

wherein they affront him, and defie his Power, as if they could make Conquests, destroy Nations, dethrone Monarchs, and carry all the World before them, whether the Sovereign Ruler of Kings determin'd it or no. This mighty Heroe, who would hear of no Conditions, nor stoop to any Treaty, but resolves to punish the Impudence of the Czar, as they call'd it, in invading his Dominions — Behold him flying like Clouds before the Wind, from the Fury of that Nation who were so little in his Eyes.

Another Observation I cannot but make, viz. That Men may push even a just Resentment too far, and make themselves the Object of that Vengeance, they think they have the Right of executing — There is no doubt, but that the King of Sweden had the justest Ground of War, in his first Attacks on the Muscovite and the Pole, that any Prince in this Age ever had — They wrongfully invaded what they had no just Claim to; they basely attack'd him without declaring War against him, without demanding any Satisfaction, or pretending any Injury; they took him at the Time of his Minority, a young unexperienc'd Prince, under many Disadvantages, and as they thought unable to defend himself against them; they were three united Powers, the Dane, the Pole, the Muscovite, against the single Swede — In Defence of his invaded Right, GOD rais'd him Friends; the English and Dutch appear'd in his Behalf, oblig'd the Dane to make Peace with him upon Terms to the Disadvantage of Denmark; GOD carry'd him in Triumph over the Bellies of the Poles and the Muscovites, in two famous Actions of Riga and Narva, and bless'd his Arms to the Compleat humbling both these Enemies, driving the King of Poland to beg a hard and very severe Peace, pushing him quite out of Poland, and possessing Saxony almost to its entire Ruin — The Muscovite he drove into his own Country, where he offer'd to make Peace with the Swede upon almost any Terms.

Here without doubt he ought to have stop'd; here all the Pretence of War ended; for here he might have settled Poland, both

both the *Muscovite* and the *Saxon* offering to own King *Stanislaus*; here he might have secur'd his own Subjects, the *Czar* offering to quit all he had taken; here he might have establish'd his Honour, in obtaining all the Ends he could pretend to fight for. But all would not do; he would go on to gratifie his Resentment at the *Muscovite* to please his own Ambition, and pursue his Revenge; and here GOD forsook him; The Almighty Sovereign, who has said *Vengeance is MINE*, affronted at his Exorbitance, has put a Hook into his Nostrils, and thrown him from the Top of all his Glory, to teach him and all Princes, that tho' they are permitted to do themselves Right against the Oppressions of others,

yet he will make the *Wrath of Man* praise him, and the Remainder thereof he will restrain; that is, he will set Bounds to the Extravagancies of it.

And thus far for the King of Sweden's Disasters: But is not the King of Sweden now a *Memento Mori* to the Northern Princes, a good Admonition to them to set Bounds to their own Appetites, and not to let the Lust of Conquest lead them on beyond the Bounds of Justice, lest he that has for the present forsaken the Swede, should for the same Error forsake them? I shall represent it faithfully for them to consider of, let them make what Use of it they please. But of this hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

I Long since thought the Clamour of Persecution in the North of Britain had been at an end— And indeed among the Sober, Honest and Sensible Part of the Church of England Men themselves, it has been so— No reasonable Man can say a word in defence of the Conduct of the Party, or charge the Government with any thing, but what any Government would do, and every Government ought to do— It cannot be expected that any Government should protect those that will not give common Assurances of their Fidelity— It cannot be imagin'd the Queen should bear with them that will not acknowledge Her Authority; that the People should forbear those that will not pray for the Queen; it is not done in England; the Church of England will not permit *Jacobite* Conventicles, or Non-jurant Clergymen to possess Benefices. How can this be called Persecution in Scotland, and no Persecution in England?

But tho' this has been demonstrated over and over in England, and the Men, that Reason will satisfy, are satisfied: Yet such are the harden'd Faces of the High Party, that without Consideration for Argument, or Proof of Fact, they will go on

affirming and affirming, after plain Evidence and a clear Detection, as if nothing had been said. And that this Charge may be made clear against them, behold a Letter sent to the Author of this Paper, now at Edinburgh, in which, tho, in hopes of the Repentance of the Party, I have conceal'd the Name; yet if he offers to deny or disown the Fact, the World shall have both his Name, and sufficient Testimony of the Truth.

The Case is this; A Church of England Minister, not above 8 Miles West of London, is going about with the Brief lately granted by Her Majesty for the Relief of the poor Palatines, and as a faithful Steward for the poor People, you shall see how he discharges himself in the following Letter.

SIR,

Enquiring for you at my Friend Mr. — he told me you were gone to Edinburgh. This is to acquaint you, that last Sabbath-Day was Seven-night Mr. — the Minister of our Parish of — made a Visit to Justice — And after many discouraging Discourses against Collecting for the poor Palatines (the Brief being then in his Hand) recommended

to him a far greater Charity, the persecuted Episcopal Party in Scotland, and amongst other things said, there never was a more cruel INQUISITION set up any where in the World, than there: And notwithstanding that the Clergy had sworn to the Government, and Abjured the Prince of Wales, yet unless they would RENOUNCE their Religion, they were not suffer'd to live in any quiet; which so moved the Compassion of Bro. Justice, that he gave him Ten Shillings. Now that no more of my Neighbours might be bubbled out of their Money on such false Allegations, this is to desire a true State of this Matter in one of your Reviews.

Yours, &c.

I shall detect the Falsity of this Letter of Course, in the ensuing Sheets of this Work, and that much more largely; but in the mean time I pretend to tell the Ecclesiastick FORGER of this Story, that there are now open in Edinburgb about 15 or 16 Episcopal Meetings, even all that were so lately shut up; that they preach in them undisturb'd, pray for who they please there, and never for the QUEEN, Two excepted; that the Ministers refuse to this Hour to take the Oaths, and yet are not at all persecuted—— That in daily Charities and Collections; the Presbyterians, both Ministers and People, contribute largely and constantly to their Supply—— And this is all the Persecution they can obtain in Edinburgb, or indeed in any other Part of Scotland; for I'll make it appear, they have labour'd diligently to obtain the Advantage, of saying they were persecuted, and I shall easily show you the Reasons of it also—— It is of great Use, to the High Party in England, that this Cry of Persecution in Scotland should be made good, and therefore they seem resolv'd to push the Episcopal People there upon something, which should force the Scots to persecute them; and to this end they are erecting the Common Prayer there in their Meeting-Houses, a Thing, they know, the People will not bear, and which once rais'd a terrible Scene of Blood in that

Kingdom; if they go on with this, I will not warrant them from a three leg'd Stool, and think they are answerable for all the Consequences of it. But as to Persecution now in Scotland, and as the above Person has express'd it—— 'Tis all a premeditated, forged, self contriv'd, High Church, Clergy-Fiction; empty, impudent, and without the least Pretence—— And by it you may judge of the Modesty of the whole Party.

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